

ROBERT RAMSEY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 209.]

JUNE 23, 1842.

Mr. CALHOUN, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition of Robert Ramsey, report :*

That they find that the papers in the case have all been lost. They also find that, on January 27, 1838, the then Committee on Naval Affairs made the following report, having the papers before them, and presented a bill. In this report the Committee on Naval Affairs concur, and report the bill to the House without amendment.

"The petitioner states that, in 1798, he enlisted on board the United States frigate 'Portsmouth,' Daniel McNeal, Esq., commander, in the capacity of steward, and continued on board till March, 1800; that, in 1799, while the frigate was blockading a French ship of war, in Surinam river, and while petitioner was in the line of his duty, and under the orders of his captain, a portion of the rigging, upon which he was employed, parted, and he fell and severely injured his left knee, rendering him, for a long time, unable to perform his duty on board; that, so far from recovering from the injury, the disability has continued to increase, till he is, in a great measure, disabled from pursuing his ordinary vocations. He presented his petition for a pension in 1818, and would have applied sooner but for the fact that the surgeon of the frigate died at sea before the vessel arrived in port, and no certificate could be obtained.

"The fact that the petitioner received the injury in the manner stated by him is proved by the testimony of three witnesses, one of whom was a lieutenant on board, in command at the time of the occurrence.

"Six physicians, who have, at different times, between 1817 and 1833, examined the wound, unite in saying that the knee-pan was transversely fractured, the capsular ligaments much injured, and the knee considerably enlarged, and that there is danger of the use of it being lost entirely in a few years. The general facts are also corroborated by other testimony; and the committee are of opinion that the prayer of the petition ought to be granted."—*See Reports of Committees, 2d session 25th Congress, report No. 486, 2d vol., 1837-'38.*

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